

A quarterly Publication of the Civil Society Scaling-up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN)

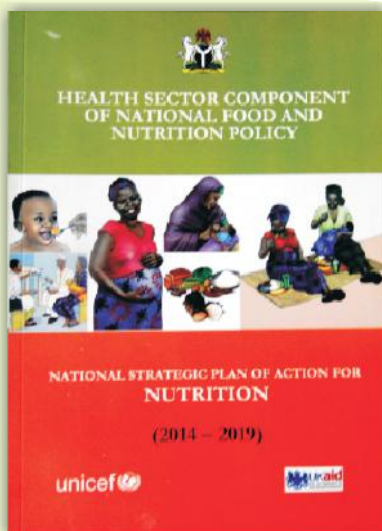
Working together to attain a country where every citizen has food and nutrition is secured.

## 2016 Budgetary Allocation:

**CSOs Advocate to Government and Legislators for inclusiveness in funding of Maternal and Child Nutrition in Nigeria.**

**M**alnutrition continues to be an issue of public health concern in Nigeria owing to a myriad of factors. According to the 2013 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), the rise in the level of wasting from 14% in 2008 to 18% in 2013 indicates an ongoing deprivation among Nigerian children. ***This deprivation among the most vulnerable of the Nigeria population must be addressed.***

The Nigerian Government has developed and presented the National Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 -2019) which sets out costed, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions with measurable targets.



CS-SUNN and its coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) agreed that its adoption and implementation at all levels will provide a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to tackling the problem of

malnutrition and reduce the level of stunting from 37% to 17% which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From the foregoing, CS-SUNN in collaboration with PACFaH, organized a training, from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February, to build the capacity of CSOs working in the FCT on nutrition advocacy skills, coalition building and budget tracking.



Participants at the FCT CSOs training on Advocacy skills and coalition building workshop supported by PACFaH held at Top Rank Hotels Abuja

### At the end of the training, the CSOs:

**Commended:** the Federal Government of Nigeria for the development and presentation of the **costed Health sector National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014-2019)**

### Appreciated the facts:

- That President Buhari on submission of his Medium Term Expenditure and Fiscal Strategy Paper to the National Assembly in November 2015, emphasized a social inclusion strategy that would “protect the poor and most vulnerable.”
- That Nigeria is keying into the SDGs that provide a framework for government programs to key into globally agreed development outcomes,

**Noted with concern that:** the 2016 Appropriation Bill did not have budgetary allocation for the implementation of the NSPAN.

### Advocates and calls on Federal, State and Local Governments to:

- Create nutrition specific budget lines in the ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture at the Federal, States and LGAs levels in Nigeria
- Provide budgetary allocation for the implementation of the NSPAN (2014-2019) in the 2016 Budget appropriation, with emphasis on Maternal and Child nutrition, and ensure timely release of funds.
- Extend maternity leave to six months, in order to protect Exclusive Breast feeding.

### Advocates and calls on Legislators at National and State levels to:

- Ensure inclusiveness in funding for Maternal and Child nutrition Interventions
- Carry out oversight functions for implementation of the NSPAN (2014-2019)

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### About CS-SUNN

The Civil Society Scaling-up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) is a non-governmental, non-profit making coalition, made up of organizations and individuals with a shared vision to transform Nigeria into a country where every citizen has food and nutrition is secured.

#### Our Vision:

A country where every citizen has food and nutrition is secured.

#### Our Mission:

To mobilize Non-State Actors to advocate, generate evidence, build capacity and stimulate communities to scale up nutrition in Nigeria

#### Our Objectives:

☞ To create a platform through which Civil Society Organizations can effectively advocate for improved nutrition in Nigeria.

☞ To advocate for effective coordination of all nutrition stakeholders and programs in Nigeria;

☞ To advocate and engage government to create nutrition budget lines in relevant Federal and State Ministries in Nigeria;

☞ To encourage and strongly advocate for the establishment of an effective and functional nutrition surveillance monitoring and evaluation systems;

☞ To build the capacity of CS-SUNN members to effectively engage in the pursuit of improved nutrition in Nigeria.

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## From the Chairman's Desk



Welcome to the second edition of the Civil Society – Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN) quarterly newsletter. I thank God for the dream that led to the coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with the primary goal of tackling malnutrition from the grass



root. It is with great pleasure that I announce that the coalition has continued to experience tremendous growth since its inception in 2014. I sincerely appreciate the Civil Society Organizations who have been part of this journey.

Malnutrition has continued to be a burden amongst women and children in Nigeria and should be addressed with an urgent level of priority. CS-SUNN remains a platform through which CSOs can effectively advocate for improved nutrition in Nigeria.

Milestones achieved by CS-SUNN this quarter include:

- State level Policy dialogues on Maternal and Child Nutrition to stakeholders and policy makers through the Local Working Group Coordinators in 9 states; Kebbi, Anambra, Sokoto, Lagos, Delta, Kwara, Akwalbom, Enugu, Adamawa and FCT.
- The public presentation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition to the policy makers in the 9 states and FCT, with communiqués to buttress their commitments.
- Development of the CS-SUNN Behavioral Change Communication Strategy for August 2015 - August 2018.
- Training of trainers workshop on Nutrition Advocacy Skills and Strategies for CSOs in Nasarawa, Kaduna, Niger State and FCT who would go back to their various places of assignments and do a step down of the training thereby raising more nutrition advocates.

The newsletter features interesting articles including activities carried out by CS-SUNN Secretariat and other key events within the nutrition landscape to ensure that stakeholders are kept abreast of the happenings in nutrition in Nigeria.

I thank the board of Trustees, the Steering Committee, Partners, CSOs and the entire CS-SUNN Team who through their continuous support, commitments and tireless efforts have continued to advance the course of nutrition in Nigeria.

**Professor Ngozi Nnam, FNSN**

Chairman, CS-SUNN

## Nutrition stakeholders mobilized for Policy Dialogues on the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014-2019) in 9 states and FCT

The public presentation of the National Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 -2019) by the Federal Ministry of Health, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, provided a platform for enhanced nutrition advocacy. As a follow up, CS-SUNN Local Working Groups (LWG) engaged stakeholders for state level Policy dialogues on the adoption and Implementation of the NSPAN with focus on Maternal Nutrition and Infant & Young Child Feed (IYCF).

### The objectives of the State Policy Dialogues were:

1. To familiarize stakeholders on the NSPAN and their expected roles;
2. To identify opportunities and barriers to the adoption and implementation of the NSPAN;
3. To reach a consensus on the way forward.



Haj. A. M. Dantsoho, PS Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development receives a copy of the NSPAN

The Dialogues were held between October 2015 to January 2016 in Kebbi, Adamawa, Anambra, Akwa-Ibom, Delta, Kwara, Lagos, Sokoto, Enugu and the FCT.

### In all the states, CS-SUNN made a call to state Government to:

- Domesticate the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 -2019) with focus on maternal and child nutrition;
- allocate Budget with timely release of funds to implement nutrition interventions;
- Extend maternity leave to 6 months for working mothers, to protect Exclusive Breast Feeding. Lagos state is the only state to have extended maternity leave to six months.

The Dialogues addressed some key questions. The summary of responses from Lagos state are highlighted:

#### 1. Major drivers of malnutrition identified were:

- Inadequate implementation of government policies on nutrition and food security;
- Lack of support of exclusive breast feeding,
- Poor food production, preservation , utilisation and seasonality;
- Poor knowledge and Food taboos
- High cost of food, poverty and low income

#### 2. Resource gaps that may hinder scaling up nutrition at state level include-

- No budget line for nutrition or a strategic, costed nutrition plan for in most states; and urgent need for advocacy;
- Policy to extend maternity leave to six months should include the private sector ;
- The establishment and sustenance of the State Committee For Nutrition (**SCFN**) for resource mobilisation is important. The forum can be expanded to be multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral in order to make progress

#### 3. What policy makers, civil societies and other leaders do to promote nutrition action:

- Traditional leaders: create awareness within the community, among all community members.
- Policy makers: providing low cost market space/stalls for market women; government to create job opportunities especially for women; support the development of costed work plan.
- Civil societies: there has to be grass roots mobilisation; adolescent girl nutrition through schools; training of health workers; advocacy to relevant stake holders.
- Religious leaders: preach nutrition education at churches and mosques.

#### 4. Strategies that can be adopted to help elevate Exclusive Breast feeding (EBF) rates-

- Promote EBF with every opportunity.
- Advocacy for workplace crèches.

#### 5. Plans for the Government to engage CSOs to key into nutrition goal of the SDGs include:

- Stake-holders in nutrition to be identified and to work as partners with government;
- Establishment of the state committee on food and nutrition.



# Photo



**Kebbi State:** H.E Governor Atiku Bagudu & his wife Dr. Z. Bagudu at the Policy dialogue in Birnin Kebbi, 30th October 2015



**Adamawa State:** Participants at the policy dialogue in Yola 9th November 2015.



**Anambra State:** HCH, Dr. J. Akabuike and others at the policy dialogue in Awka, 24th November 2015



**Akwa Ibom State:** Participants at the Policy dialogue in Uyo, 3rd December 2015



**Lagos State:** Participants at the Policy dialogue in Lagos, 10th December 2015



**Delta state:** Participants at the Policy dialogue in Asaba, 16th December 2015



# S p e a k s



**FCT Abuja:** Participants at the Policy dialogue in Abuja, 16th December 2015



**Kwara state:** Advocacy visit by LWG TO HCH, Alhaji Suleiman Alolagbe Alege at the State Ministry of Health on 17th December 2015



**Enugu State:** Participants at the Policy dialogue in Enugu on 28th January, 2016



**Kaduna State:** Participants at the Kaduna CSOs training on Advocacy skills and coalition building in Kaduna, 16th - 20th, November 2015



**Niger State:** Presentation of certificate to a participant at the Advocacy skills workshop for CSOs in Mina, 23rd - 27th November 2015.



**Nasarawa State:** Presentation of certificate to a participant at the Advocacy skills workshop for CSOs 25th - 29th January 2016.



## Highlights on State Level Policy dialogues

**Kebbi state:** Policy dialogue was held in Birnin Kebbi, on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The Government committed to:

- Create a nutrition budget line at LGA level
- Develop a Nutrition Action Plan;
- Provide a monthly imprest of **One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000)** to each LGA to support nutrition interventions.

**Adamawa State:** Policy Dialogue held in Yola, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The participants requested

- Government to domesticate the NSPAN and extend maternity leave for working mothers to six months, so as to support exclusively breast feeding;
- Government to give enhanced attention to mothers with young children in the IDP camps.
- NGOs/CBOs to adopt an IDP camp or community and train women to feed their children with balanced local diet.

**Anambra State:** Policy dialogue was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Commitments made by government were:

- Develop and implement the State Nutrition Plan that will be based on NSPAN.
- The allocation of a nutrition budget line by the Economic and Budget ministry.
- CSOs requested to monitor nutrition activities for accountability.

**Akwa Ibom:** Policy Dialogue was held in Uyo, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. CS-SUNN made a call to state Government to:

- Akwa Ibom state government should extend maternity leave to 6 months to enable mothers practice exclusive breast feeding.
- Akwa Ibom state should enhance availability of funds to the PHC activities including nutrition
- The state should set aside funds for training of health workers in the area of nutrition

### **Kwara State:**

After intensive deliberations among stakeholders drawn from the Civil Society organizations, policy makers and technocrats in Kwara state, the stakeholders resolved as follows:

- Budget process on nutrition should be open to input from relevant stakeholders. Therefore government should engage civil societies in the budget development process.
- The Kwara state government should establish creches in each of the three senatorial districts for workers.
- Health workers training and commitment are cardinal to the improvement in the breast feeding practices. Kwara State government should support the training of health workers in the communities.

### **Lagos State:**

Policy Dialogue was held in Ikeja, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The participants agreed on:

- Advocacy to Government to develop the costed state work plan; and inaugurate the State committee on food and nutrition;
- Advocacy to Traditional and Religious leaders to create awareness on malnutrition;
- Engagement of Civil societies to carry out grass roots mobilisation; adolescent girl nutrition education through schools, and advocacy to relevant stake holders.

**Federal Capital Territory (FCT):** The FCT Policy Dialogue was held in Abuja, on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. FCT has adopted the NSPAN and developed costed work plans but there is no budget line for nutrition activities. The participants agreed on need for advocacy to

- Honorable Minister of FCT to create and fund a budget line for nutrition programs;
- Government to strengthen the primary health care system;
- Government to reactivate community structures that will address nutrition issues.

**Delta State:** Policy Dialogue held in Asaba, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The Stakeholders called on Government to:

- Provide adequate budgetary provisions for food and nutrition activities.
- Increase access of farming families to Agricultural and micro credit facilities;
- Extend maternity leave to 6 months to provide adequate opportunities for child care by working nursing mothers.

**Sokoto State:** Policy Dialogue was held in Sokoto on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The Government committed to:

- Budgetary Allocation for nutrition in the 2016 Budget, hence need for follow up by CS-SUNN.
- Ministry of Budget and Planning to organize a coordinating meeting with line ministries and other stakeholders, to support nutrition action, especially the scaling up of NSPAN;
- Collaborate with the Teaching Hospital for production of Ready to use therapeutic food using local available resources.

**Enugu State:** Policy Dialogue was held in Enugu, on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The participants agreed on advocacy to Government:

- To adopt NSPAN as the guiding tool for state nutrition programs;
- To scale up Behavioural change communication and nutrition education programs;
- To promote Exclusive Breastfeeding and optimal Complementary foods using available local nutritious foods.

## Highlight on CS-SUNN's Partners:

### Nutrition Success Story – JOSEPH DAVID

**A**s part of activities for project implementation, Heal The Youth Foundation (HTYF) undertakes bi-weekly supervision and supportive visits to our project communities. Nutrition, household economic strengthening, psycho-social support, education and health issues form the basis of the home visits during these visits.

During one of such visits to Chugwi community in the Vwang District of Jos South LGA, the household No. PLA/BUU/HTYF/HH0026 was visited by our project staff in company of the community volunteer.

#### *Joseph given a chance to live again.*

While conducting nutrition screening using MUAC tape on the children, – Joseph David's (5 years old) reading was 11.5cm, indicating moderate acute malnutrition. As a result of this, Joseph was referred and linked to receive nutritional supplements from our partner CSO - Loving Care Development Centre who specializes in the rehabilitation of malnourished children.

Joseph progress was closely monitored and was also referred to the Chugwi PHC for continues growth monitoring.

Thereafter through follow up, Heal The Youth Foundation (HTYF) staff counseled the care giver (mother) on nutrition education and hygiene, complementary feeding (using the 4 star diet) and conducted food demonstration using locally available foods.

Furthermore Heal The Youth Foundation (HTYF) nutrition focal officer followed up on the child and the family to ensure that the care giver is adhering to cooking nutritious food using locally available foods and also linked the care giver with the nutrition support group in the community.

Today Joseph David has fully recovered and is healthy and the his mother continues to cook nutritious food for the family using the locally available foods. She is now an active member of the nutrition support group in her community.

### ACF Nutrition Programs in Nigeria

**A**ction Against Hunger ACF International is an international humanitarian organization committed to ending world hunger. Recognized as a leader in the fight against malnutrition, ACF saves the lives of malnourished children while providing communities with access to safe water and sustainable solutions to hunger.

**ACF in conjunction with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children supports five states in Northern Nigeria to address the burden of malnutrition through the Working to Improve Nutrition in Northern Nigeria (WINNN) project** in Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Yobe and Zamfara states. **ACF implements the programme in Jigawa and Yobe states, with focus on community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM),** infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for reduction in chronic malnutrition, **micronutrient interventions through the** bi-annual Maternal Newborn and Child Health Weeks (MNCHWs); **advocacy, coordination and capacity building for nutrition.**

**ACF implements the Echo-funded Sustainable CMAM in Northern Nigeria program in Yobe** in three local government areas. The program is centred on community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF), micronutrient supplementation (Zinc) and Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In Jigawa State, ACF is implementing a DFID-funded nutrition-sensitive social protection program for pregnant women and mothers of children less than 2 years of age in three local government areas.

At the national level, ACF works with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement to tackle not only acute malnutrition but also chronic malnutrition through improved Infant young child feeding behaviours among mothers.

Through existing projects, ACF continues to engage effectively with government and community stakeholders and development partners for effective program design, implementation and evaluation and ensures good value for money. It also generates useful evidence to facilitate government's adoption and scale-up of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs across project states.

### CS-SUNN Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Strategy (2015 -2018)

CS-SUNN, supported by the MPTF, has developed a BCC strategy to serve as reference and to guide in implementing key communication and advocacy activities from August 2015 to August 2018.

**The Program Objective is:** The adoption and implementation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014 - 2019) at every level, with emphasis on maternal and child nutrition.

#### Key Advocacy Objectives are to

- Positively influence those who make policy decisions to enact laws and regulations to protect exclusive breast feeding and extend maternity leave to 6 months.
- Budgetary allocation with timely release of funds/resources for nutrition interventions in Nigeria at national, state and LGA levels.
- Promote optimal maternal nutrition.
- Promote Exclusive breast feeding.
- Promote optimal complementary feeding with continued breast feeding until 2 two years,
- Engage the media to provide focused and strategic media coverage and reportage on nutrition interventions in the country.

#### Advocacy Objectives and Core Messages:

##### Objective 1: Awareness Creation:

- "Nigeria: a country where every citizen has food and nutrition is secured"
- "No Child should die of malnutrition in Nigeria when we know how to prevent it."

##### Objective 2: Policy Coverage:

- The National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014-2019) should be a reference document for nutrition programming.
- Collaboration is needed to integrate nutrition into policies and across sectors;
- Increased partnership with media practitioners essential to address the problem of malnutrition.

##### Objective 3: Plans and Budgets Implementation

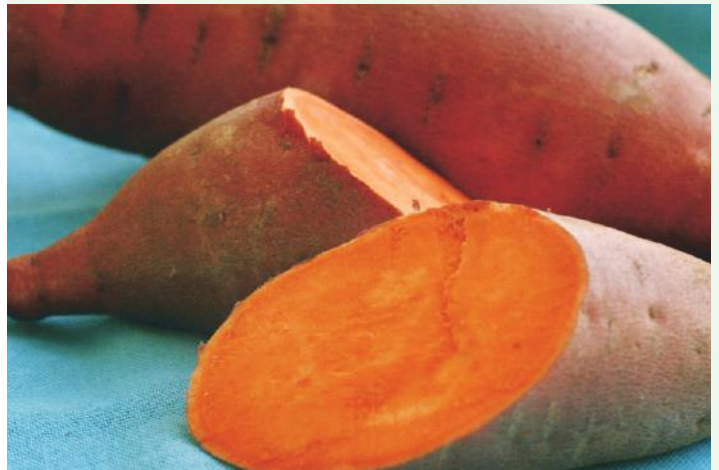
- Resources must be allocated for implementation of nutrition interventions in all sectors and at all levels.
- Budgeted funds must be spent on nutrition

#### Proposed Advocacy Activities

- Advocacy on the adoption and implementation of the NSPAN
- Develop and disseminate CS-SUNN Quarterly Newsletter, the "**Nigeria Nutrition Update**".
- Conduct Policy Dialogues on Maternal and Child Nutrition.
- Build capacity of Media Practitioners on Maternal Nutrition and IYCF Practices.
- Expand the CSOs Nutrition Networks
- Conduct Nutrition Advocacy Town Hall Meetings.
- Promote locally available nutritive foods.

### Promoting Nutritious Local Foods in Nigeria: The Orange Flesh Sweet Potato (OFSP)

The Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) is a Vitamin A powerhouse and a healthy food for all ages. Nigeria has 2 OFSP varieties: "King J" and "Mother's Delight". Sweet Potatoes can grow in every state and has a maturing period of 3 – 5 months. However there is poor awareness on the nutrient value of OFSP roots and leaves. When included in the diet, 150 grams of OFSP can supply the recommended daily allowance of Vitamin A for children less than 5 years of age. The leaves have good micronutrient and protein (4%) contents and can be used for food. OFSP can be used to combat hunger and malnutrition. OFSP can be planted in Home gardens, thereby contributing to food and nutrition security, and providing avenues for farming families to improve income – generating opportunities.



Orange Flesh Sweet Potato (OFSP)

#### Some ways to utilize OFSP:

- OFSP can be boiled, fried and roasted and served with egg, fish or meat sauce. The cooked roots are tasty and easy to digest by children.
- **OFSP Pottage:** Peel roots wash and cut into medium chunks, add water, spices, ground crayfish, salt and palm-oil, and cook.
- **OFSP Flour:** Peel roots, cut into small slices or chunks and dry under the sun on a raised platform to get chips. Grind the dried chips into flour. The flour can be used in variety of ways e.g. to prepare thick meals (Swallow) and eaten with egusi soup.
- **OFSP Vegetable soup:** OFSP leaves are rich in nutrients, tasty and can be used to cook Nigerian vegetable soups.

Source: Adebisi, B.A., Phorbee O. O., et al. **Orange – Flesh Sweet potato: Production, Processing and Utilization. A Community Training Manual. Feb. 2015.**